

REMARKS

Claims 1-24, 36-69, 85, and 92 are pending. Applicants address each of the objections and rejections in the order in which they appear in the Action. All pending claims have been amended to remove a typographical error (the improper use of a colon “:” after the status identifier). Claims 13 has been amended to better claim Applicants’ invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicant notes the Examiner’s thorough review of the claims, and acknowledgement that Claims 13, 17, 20, 46, 47, 50-52, 55 and 66 are drawn to patentable subject matter, and would be allowable if re-written to incorporate those elements from the claims from which the claim depend.

I. Priority Claim

Applicants note that the Examiner did not acknowledge the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the priority documents from the International Bureau. Attached herewith is a copy of the Form PCT/IB304 indicating the transmittal of the certified priority documents to the IB, as well as a copy of the priority document on file with WIPO.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that Reference Nos. 2-3 listed on the Form PTO-1449 submitted on August 1, 2006 were not considered. Applicants apologize for the inconvenience caused by the failure to provide copies of the references. The foreign patent references are attached herewith, along with the appropriate statement and fee and a new Form PTO-1449. Applicants request that the Examiner consider the references and return a fully-initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the next communication.

III. Objections to Specification Addressed

The Action objects to the specification for failing to provide antecedent basis for the “container unit” in Claim 56. The examiner’s attention is drawn to the term

“container unit” recited in subpart (f) of claim 13. Withdraw of the objection is requested.

The Action objects to the informalities of Claim 85. Applicants have amended Claim 85 to correct the typographical error and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

IV. Section 102(b) Rejection Overcome

Claims 1-12, 14-16, 18, 19, 21-24, 36-45, 48, 49, 53, 54, 56-65, 67-69, 85, and 92 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,085,351 (Martin). Claim 13, however, was indicated to be allowed.

As suggested by the examiner, Claim 13 has been amended as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of the claims from which it previously depended. As this subject matter has already been deemed to be allowable, and in light of the cancellation of claims 1-12, and the amendment of claim 13, it is the rejections are overcome, and that the subject matter of claim 13 and all claims directly or indirectly dependent therefrom should be passed to allowance.

V. Double Patenting Rejection Overcome

Claims 1-26, 38-71, 83, and 104 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24, 36-69, 85, and 92 of copending Application No. 10/597,678; claims 1-22, 34-69, 83, and 90 of copending Application No. 10/597,683; claims 1-37 of copending Application No. 10/597,692; claims 1-46 of copending Application No. 10/597,703; claims 1-24, 36-69, 85, and 92 of copending Application No. 10/597,624; claims 1-25, 37-71, 85, and 92 of copending Application No. 10/597,690.

Applicants have concurrently filed a terminal disclaimer, addressing this issue. The filing of such terminal disclaimer does not serve as an admission of the propriety of the rejection.

VI. Conclusion

All claim rejections being addressed in full, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned, who can be reached at (919) 483-9995.

Respectfully submitted,

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